



**FSU-NEW LANDS:** Unseasonably warm, dry weather continued to prevail over primary spring grain-producing areas of north-central Kazakhstan, hastening crop maturity. Reports as of August 18 indicated that the grain in Kazakhstan was about 10 percent harvested. Harvest was just beginning in primary spring wheat-producing areas of north-central Kazakhstan. In Russia, light to moderate showers (8-25 mm or more) spread from the Urals eastward into Eastern Siberia for the second consecutive week, favoring spring grains in the filling stage. The greatest amounts of precipitation (25-50 mm or more) were observed in western portions of Western Siberia. Weekly temperatures averaged 1 to 3 degrees C above normal in Russia and Kazakhstan. In cotton-producing areas of Central Asia, hot, dry weather favored boll maturation, but maintained high irrigation requirements.